

the generous land donation from Martha and Josh Morriss, became a reality last year.

The school does not have an attendance zone, and any elementary-age student living in the vicinity is eligible to apply for enrollment on a first-come basis without charge. The school is designed for approximately 400 students, with three sections each in grades K–1, 2–3, and 4–5. Due to a very high demand, a waiting list has been established for most of the primary grades.

Texas A&M University—Texarkana Arts and Sciences and Education faculty assist the TISD curriculum personnel and teachers to design the mathematics and engineering integrated curriculum and electives. University faculty develop content and pedagogy courses to train the elementary teachers to deliver the curriculum using effective teaching strategies that promote mastery of the curriculum by all students. All of the Morriss Elementary teachers are required to obtain a Masters Degree and either the Texas Master Mathematics Teacher Certification or Texas Master Technology Teacher Certification through preparation programs offered at A&M—Texarkana.

I am proud of the success of Morriss Elementary and wish to commend TISD Superintendent James Henry Russell and school Principal Rick Sandlin for the wonderful job they are doing. I also wish to congratulate the students and the teachers on the completion of their first year and look forward to monitoring the progress of these students as well as the continued success of Morriss Elementary. Our Nation's ability to continue to lead the world in innovation and competitiveness will depend in large part on our ability to motivate students to succeed and pursue careers in STEM fields. Morriss Elementary is an example of how that thrust can succeed at the local level with the vision and support of educators, parents, community leaders and students.

RACHEL MEIS OF RENTON,
WASHINGTON

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rachel Meis, a young woman from my home district, the Eighth District of Washington, who earned the Congressional Medal. I honored her achievements at my district office during the Memorial Day recess and I do so again today.

Rachel didn't just showcase her selfless and wonderful spirit to earn congressional recognition. She has consistently lived her life in a way that is inspiring and a wonderful example for young people everywhere. Aside from her Congressional Medal, Rachel is a National Merit Finalist, a member of the National Honor Society at Tahoma High School and a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the National Honor Society of Green River Community College—where she participated in Running Start Program courses to supplement her education.

Rachel is also a star on the track. She is a sprinter and qualified for the Washington State championships in four separate events. She finished 11th in the 100 meter, 13th in the 200 meter, 11th in the 4 x 100 meter relay and medaled in the 4 x 200 meter relay.

Most recently, Rachel scored in the top 1 percent of more than 46,000 students in the Department of the Treasury's newly minted National Financial Literacy Challenge—an initiative recommended by the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy.

Rachel will attend George Fox University in Oregon starting this fall and plans to major in mechanical engineering. So far in her young life, she has succeeded due to a wonderful attitude and a positive work ethic. I am excited to see what she will accomplish in her future.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER
JORGENSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jennifer Jorgensen on her exemplary basketball career and congratulate her on receiving the honor of being named Iowa's 2008 Miss Basketball.

Jennifer recently graduated from Southeast Webster-Grand High School and will be attending Pacific University to continue her illustrious basketball career. Jennifer has been recognized with a variety of accomplishments including a three-time first team all-state basketball choice as well as the IBCA all-region team.

Jennifer leaves behind a stellar basketball career, finishing as Iowa women's second all-time leading scorer, fourth in rebounds, and fifth in assists.

Jennifer is a shining example of the dedication and determination present in today's youth and their promise as tomorrow's leaders. It is an honor to represent Jennifer and her family in the United States Congress and I know my colleagues join me in wishing her the best of luck in her upcoming journey into higher education and collegiate athletics.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT HENDERSON

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott Henderson for years of tireless service in my office and to the people of the Fourteenth Congressional District of Florida.

I've had the pleasure of knowing Scott for over 8 years. Throughout that entire time he has been a dedicated public servant, a strong advocate for the principles we share and cherish, and most importantly, a true friend.

I first met Scott when I was running for the Florida Legislature and Scott was working for the Republican Party of Florida. I soon hired him and he helped me win my first race for State Representative in 2000. After taking office, I hired him to be my assistant, and he quickly proved to be an invaluable friend and colleague as we navigated the challenges and opportunities of serving in Tallahassee.

When I decided to run for Congress in 2003 Scott stayed by my side and helped implement a winning campaign. After I was elected to the House, Scott became my Deputy Chief

of Staff. His has been a diverse role—managing special projects, meeting with constituents, and providing critical support for a number of important initiatives.

Among Scott's many accomplishments—and the one I am most proud of—was his critical work to secure the release of two Cuban dentists from Bahamian custody who fled Cuba seeking freedom. Because of Scott's efforts, these dentists were reunited with their loved ones in Florida and today live in freedom.

But after 8 years of working by my side, Scott has been afforded a wonderful professional opportunity that will allow him to continue to grow and flourish in his career.

Scott is moving to New Jersey to become a Manager of State Government Affairs for Covanta Energy, a waste-to-energy company. While we will all miss Scott's presence and good nature in the office, we are excited for him as he begins the next phase of his life and career. I'm certain that he will make significant contributions to his new company and his new community, and know that he will always have a special place in his heart for the State he loves so much.

Madam Speaker, the State of Florida and the people of southwest Florida are better off today because of Scott Henderson's diligent efforts to ensure it remains a great place to live, work and visit.

On behalf of the people of Florida's Fourteenth Congressional District, I want to thank Scott for his years of service to the people of Florida and the Nation. He is my friend, he is a true public servant in every sense of the word, and I wish him all the best as he and his wife Betsy begin this new and exciting chapter of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FREDERICK
GRASSLE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Frederick Grassle. On June 16, 2008 Dr. Grassle will be celebrated for his years of service as he steps down from his role as the Director of the Rutgers University Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences after nineteen years.

Dr. Grassle has been instrumental in the tremendous success of the Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences (IMCS). A well-published and involved member of the science community, Dr. Grassle has worked tirelessly to establish Rutgers University and the IMCS as a premier institution for the study of oceanic and aquatic sciences. He has fought for various causes, including the elimination of deep sea dumping, watershed-scale approaches to coastal management, and ensuring we safeguard of our coastal habitats.

In the past two decades, I have been fortunate enough to work with Dr. Grassle to bring about positive change to our precious coastal habitats. Through our collaboration, the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve was designated and the Barnegat Bay Estuary began receiving much-needed assistance by developing and implementing various programs designed to restore its ecological integrity. In addition, we worked